

House File 2022 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY TJEPKES

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the operation of motor vehicles on a highway
2 during a weather-related road closure and providing a penalty.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 5474YH 82
5 dea/nh/24

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 321.371A DRIVING IN VIOLATION OF
1 2 WEATHER-RELATED ROAD CLOSURE == PENALTY.
1 3 1. A person shall not operate a motor vehicle on a portion
1 4 of a street or highway that has been temporarily closed by a
1 5 highway authority due to adverse weather conditions. For
1 6 purposes of this section, a barricade, fence, or other
1 7 enclosure erected at the point of entry to the portion of the
1 8 street or highway so closed, accompanied by an official
1 9 traffic control device indicating the closure, shall serve as
1 10 notice to the public that travel on the closed portion of the
1 11 street or highway is unsafe and unlawful.
1 12 2. This section does not apply to the following:
1 13 a. A person operating a motor vehicle or implement of
1 14 husbandry for the exclusive purpose of caring for livestock.
1 15 b. A person operating an authorized emergency vehicle.
1 16 c. A person operating highway maintenance equipment on
1 17 behalf of the highway authority.
1 18 3. An operator who violates this section commits a simple
1 19 misdemeanor.

EXPLANATION

1 20 This bill provides that a person who operates a motor
1 21 vehicle on a portion of a street or highway that is
1 22 temporarily closed by the highway authority due to adverse
1 23 weather conditions is guilty, upon conviction, of a simple
1 24 misdemeanor. The bill specifies that the presence of a
1 25 barricade, fence, or other enclosure, accompanied by an
1 26 official traffic control device warning of the road closure,
1 27 placed at the point of entry to a portion of the street or
1 28 highway that is temporarily closed due to adverse weather
1 29 conditions serves as notice to the public that travel is
1 30 unsafe and unlawful.

1 31 The bill provides exceptions for highway maintenance
1 32 equipment operators, persons operating authorized emergency
1 33 vehicles, and persons operating motor vehicles or implements
1 34 of husbandry for the purpose of caring for livestock.

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